THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
OF PACIFIC GROVE

A Spiritual Sanctuary
for the Thinking Christian

442 Central Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
Phone: (831) 372-0363

Daniel Wm. Paul, Mdiv.
Pastor

E-mail:
churchoffice
@pacificgrovechurch.org
Website:
pacificgrovechurch.org

Sunday Schedule
Worship Service  11:00 AM
Fellowship after Worship

PGCC: A Beacon of hope, faith, love and Peace.

In essentials, unity.
In non-essentials, liberty.
In all things, charity.
Oh radiant Dawn,
Splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice;
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Come, O Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by your drawing nigh:
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadow put to flight.

As the Sun illumines not only the heaven and the whole world, shining on both land and sea,
But also sends rays through windows and small chinks into the furthest recesses of a house,
So the Word, poured out everywhere, beholds the smallest actions of our life.

Early Christians spoke and sang these words during December. As daylight gets shorter each day, and the night longer it seems there was a constant angst at this time of year that darkness would prevail… until that day when the time of daylight began to lengthen. We began to see that the Winter Solstice was a profound metaphor for the arrival of the Christ who is the light of the world.

You may have noticed that there are Protestant churches who gather on the eve of the Winter Solstice to observe the “Longest Night” for prayer and to address the hurt, grief, sorrow and pain many experience at Christmastime that seems amplified as the culture goes about the merriment of the season. It seems proper to do some self-reflection to sit with the “darkness” we feel before we are greeted with the Christmas proclamation from the Gospel of John that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

For me, the pilgrimage to the San Juan Bautista mission on the morning of Winter Solstice (December 21) ritualizes this understanding. Folks gather in the chilly and dark pre-dawn between the sanctuary doors of the mission and the statue of John the Baptist – some indigenous folks singing songs, some Catholic folks saying the rosary, some others just standing in quiet reflection or gentle conversation. And then, the priest of the mission opens the doors to the sanctuary and all gather in the darkness of the room and quietly wait.

And quietly wait until the first morning light floods through the east-facing doors and illuminates the sanctuary’s altar. The light is coming into the world and all the various ways of understanding and articulating that flood into the moment.

I’m pleased that some of you will be joining me there at San Juan Bautista mission this year.

And, I am looking forward to celebrating the 6 PM Christmas Eve Service with you that also is highlighted by the ritual of darkness and light.

Wishing you a blessed Advent Season and a powerful and surprising Christmas,
Pastor Dan
A Message about Stewardship

Now that we are meeting in person again on Sunday mornings, you may have noticed that we no longer pass the offering plates during the service. There are donation boxes at the exits of the sanctuary that you can leave a check or cash. But, there are several ways to make your tithes to the church.

1. Donation Button – you can always contribute to the church online using the donate button on our website or on The Lighthouse newsletter. [https://form.jotform.com/82247216784159](https://form.jotform.com/82247216784159) We will soon have a QR code on our weekly bulletin so you can use your smart phone to make your offering during the service.

2. Check pay from home – You can mail in checks to the church made out to "Christian Church of Pacific Grove" or “CCPG” or you can easily set up automatic monthly payments from your checking account. Your bank will cut and mail the monthly checks at no additional cost.

3. Tax-smart giving – some of our members have payments to the church made from IRA accounts and from Trust Fund accounts. Giving from your appreciated securities to the church at this time of a booming market may yield a substantial tax benefit right now. Others have the church as a beneficiary in their wills and estates and there are ways to benefit the church now through them. Contact the Christian Church Foundation [https://www.christianchurchfoundation.org/givingoptions](https://www.christianchurchfoundation.org/givingoptions) for ideas on how to use your assets to help out the church. For more information contact Monica Greenberg at mgreenberg@ccf.disciples.org or call her at (206) 650-6204.

4. Donation box on Sunday mornings. The Deacons have placed donation boxes at the exits of the sanctuary so that you can drop in a check or cash before or after the Sunday morning worship service.

Also remember, that your weekly or monthly tithe contributions will go to the church operating budget yet there are members of the church who also regularly contribute over and above their tithes to the Preservation Fund, often as a special end-of-the-year contribution. If you plan to make a one-time contribution to the church through tax-smart giving, the Preservation Fund could use the gifts right now. The Preservation Fund is used for the maintenance and improvements of our house and grounds. Our Trustees have a couple of big projects that they would like to pursue this year – painting the exterior of the sanctuary (not just for the appearance of the building but also to protect the 120 year-old wood) and upgrading the windows on the Swann Building to lessen the moisture seeping into the building and to provide better insulation. These two projects will cost approximately $80,000. One church member has already written us a check for $8000 (1/10th of the cost), so it would be wonderful if several more members made matching end-of-the-year contributions to the Preservation Fund.

**Your Stewardship Committee**
Dear Christian Church Disciples,

As the moderator of the 2021 Administrative Board for CCPG, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting and the balloting for the 2022 Slate of Officers and Budget.

The Annual Meeting convened in the CCPG Sanctuary shortly after 12:15 pm on Sunday, November 14th. Linda Nichols, our current Board Secretary, called the roll. Between those in the sanctuary and three members who attended virtually we had 27 present, well over the required 18 members for a quorum.

Our outgoing Financial Secretary, Keith Brown, presented the proposed slate for 2022. There were no questions regarding the slate of officers. Our outgoing Vice-Moderator, Nancy Bingaman and I introduced the proposed budget. The assembly entertained a very robust discussion about the projected revenues and expenditures. Concerns were expressed by a few members that some projected revenues might be too high and some projected expenditures might have been estimated too low. A motion was made and seconded that the Finance Committee rework the budget. A voice vote was taken, and the motion was voted down.

The assembled members were invited to complete their ballots and the ballots of all those present were collected and given to Keith and Kimberly Brown. Additional ballots were received over the course of the week and a final count was made on Sunday, November 21 prior to the church service. The results were as follows:

All members of the slate were voted into office:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderator: Frances Weesner</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Moderator: Sandi Ellis</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Secretary: Linda Nichols</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Secretary: Kathleen Kennedy</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Financial Officer: Linda Henderson</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed budget was approved (25 in favor and 8 opposed) as was the use of funds from the endowment fund if necessary (26 in favor, 5 opposed, and 2 abstaining).

I’m very honored to serve for a second year as the Moderator for the Administrative Board and again I thank everyone for their active participation. We had excellent attendance and a very successful meeting and vote.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Frances “Pinkie” Weesner
Chalice Benefit Shop is Open for Business!

Are you looking for an opportunity...
• to raise funds for our church?
• to contribute your time and talents?
• to get to know your church community better?
• to interact with neighbors?

The Chalice Closet Benefit Shop is here for you. We are open 12:00 to 4:00 every Friday and Saturday starting in December. Jean Saltsman has streamlined volunteer duties and looks forward to your help.

What’s new?
• no cash register to wrangle
• no tax amount to figure
• volunteers and customers will wear masks as required

What’s expected?
• Two people are needed to work together while the shop is in operation. One to work the cash box, the other to assist with wrapping and bagging as well as dusting.
  • (Jean has extra keys to the shop available at your request).
  • Sign up to volunteer from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM on a Friday or Saturday. You may want to choose a recurring slot.

Please check with Kimberly Brown to sign up as she is keeping the volunteer calendar. Speak to Jean Saltsman or Lori Robinson for further details. We hope you can help us return to business as usual!
GOOD TIDINGS FOR CHRISTMAS: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AND GIFTS FOR INFANTS/TODDLERS

Christmas is such a beautiful time of year of lights, music, decorations, and marathon Christmas movies on Hallmark and Lifetime. This year Christian Church of Pacific Grove will be honoring one of our treasured traditions of having a Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24th at 6 pm. It will be an hour of hearing stories, listening to the choir sing with joy in their hearts, and Communion. We will also be receiving gifts for newborns and toddlers who reside at Hamilton House. If you would like to bring a gift (wrapped or unwrapped) before December 24th, you may do so on Sundays before or after Worship leading up to December 24th. In addition, Kristina Kringle will receive gifts at Jones Hall on Wednesday, December 15 from 2 to 4 and Wednesday, December 22 from 9 to 11 am.

However you celebrate the Christmas season may the love of Jesus permeate every aspect of preparing and awaiting his birth.

Respectfully Submitted by Kimberly Brown, Elder Chair
Good Old Days
May 7, 2022 and May 8, 2022
Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss out in one of our best fund raisers.
More Information coming soon!!!

4-Sean Bigelow
7-Patrick Flanigan
8-Charles Murray
9-Dawn Wilson
10-Kimberly Brown
12-Jannelle Bingaman Silva
19-Mike Dremel
22-John Shykun
24-Magali Negron
Dear Pacific Grove Church Members,
The following poem I give for your Advent prayer consideration. The choir is working on a choral arrangement of this work. Please add this poetry to your familiar words of the holidays.
In God’s Spirit-
Your Minister of Music
Heidi Toy

Notes
In A Child of the Snows, I wanted to capture the image of a hushed story-telling around a warm fire, while cold and darkness surrounds you. Large leaps and open chords in the piano evoke the atmosphere of ancient times and distant inns described in the text while the vocal lines flow as a lullaby. I was particularly drawn to this poem as Chesterton’s words encourage the reader to think beyond the usual, celebratory Christmas message. The very last line, “and a Child comes forth alone,” conjures a vivid image of a tiny, vulnerable baby born under humble circumstances, not yet knowing what’s in store for him, unaware of the trials that he will have to face alone. The poem reminds me of the more earthy, darker side of the Christmas story.
-Christina Whitten Thomas

A Child of the Snows

There is heard a hymn when the panes are dim,
And never before or again,
When the nights are strong with a darkness long,
And the dark is alive with rain.

Never we know but in sleet and in snow,
The place where the great fires are,
That the midst of the earth is a raging mirth
And the heart of the earth a star.

And at night we win to the ancient inn
Where the child in the frost is furled,
We follow the feet where all souls meet
At the inn at the end of the world.

The gods lie dead where the leaves lie red,
For the flame of the sun is flown,
The gods lie cold where the leaves lie gold,
And a Child comes forth alone.

-G.K. Chesterton
On Thursday, November 11 at 7 am a buck saw his reflection in our church office window and decided to “attack”. The poor deer staggered around the office and exited smashing through another office window. It took the pastor and the police a little while to figure out why two office windows were shattered. Prayers for the deer, who is probably somewhere licking his wounds.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trustees Meeting 6 PM</td>
<td>Chalice Closet 12-4 PM</td>
<td>Chalice Closet 12-4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meditation 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Worship 11 AM</td>
<td>Advent Writers 6 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Elders Meeting 6 PM</td>
<td>Chalice Closet 12-4 PM</td>
<td>Chalice Closet 12-4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meditation 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Worship 11 AM</td>
<td>Advent Writers 6 PM</td>
<td>Board Meeting 6 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chalice Closet 12-4 PM</td>
<td>Chalice Closet 12-4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meditation 9:45 AM</td>
<td>Worship 11 AM</td>
<td>Advent Writers 6 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Eve Service 6 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This cool donate logo is a hyperlink for those of you viewing this in the electronic version. Our new QR code can be scanned with your camera on your smart phone. Super exciting and super easy. Just click or scan and you can donate to the church.

Church Administration
Moderator – Frances Weesner
Vice Moderator – Nancy Bingaman
Board Secretary/Clerk – Linda Nichols
Financial Secretary – Keith Brown
Chief Financial Officer – Nanette Murphy
Chair of Trustees - Ken Rockefeller
Chair of Elders – Kimberly Brown
Chair of Deacons – Janet Billets/Jackie Burns

Church Staff
Pastor - Dan Paul
Minister of Music – Heidi Toy
Organist - John Shykun
Choir Director – Pam Brydon
Administrative Assistant - Nanette Murphy
Nursery Attendants - Kathleen Kennedy